

HOUSE RESOLUTION 160

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart on being named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart, who has been named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry by the Memphis Inter-Denominational (MID) Fellowship, Inc., as well as the keynote speaker of this year's awards ceremony; and

WHEREAS, the MID Fellowship recognizes the importance of honoring those women who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields; the women recognized are judged on the basis of being a Woman of Faith, a Woman of Prayer, a Woman of Good Works, a Woman of Dedication, and a Woman of Leadership with the Courage of Esther; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Gina Stewart is a pastor, preacher, visionary, builder, mentor, and adjunct professor, who has led the congregation of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis since March 1995; and

WHEREAS, she is a native Memphian and "daughter" of Christ Missionary Baptist Church, where she was baptized and mentored for ministry by her predecessor and former pastor, the Reverend Eddie L Currie; and

WHEREAS, elected by majority vote to serve as the pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Stewart is the first African-American woman elected to serve an established African-American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Gina Stewart is also the first woman elected president of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the first female president of a national African-American Baptist mission agency or convention, and the first woman elected president of the U.S.-based Baptist Group; and

WHEREAS, a 1978 graduate of Memphis Catholic High School, Dr. Stewart earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Marketing in 1982 from the University of Memphis and received a Master of Education degree in Administration and Supervision from Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville in 1989; she received a Master of Divinity degree from Memphis Theological Seminary in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart attended the Harvard Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute for Church Based Community and Economic Development in 2000 and received a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2007; she is currently pursuing a PhD in African-American Preaching at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, recognized with numerous honors and awards, Dr. Gina Stewart is a recipient of the Outstanding African American Student Award from Memphis Theological Seminary, Outstanding African American Alumni Award from Memphis Theological Seminary, Outstanding Citizen of the Year from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Community Service Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, O'landa Draper Humanitarian Award, Pastor of the Year Award (medium size church) from the Gospel Bridge Awards, Women of Wisdom award from the Women's Foundation of Greater Memphis, Pastor of the Year award from Citizens for Better Service, Living Legends Award, the Class of 2017 Women of Excellence Award from the Tri-State Defender, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Memphis Juneteenth Festival; and

WHEREAS, a widely published author, Reverend Dr. Stewart was named among the World's Most Loved Pastors by *Gospel Today* magazine in 2005, and in 2013, she became the first woman to receive the prestigious Carter G. Woodson Award from Southwest Community College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stewart was inducted into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers, Class of 2018, and elected to serve on the National Board of the NAACP in 2017; she is a former board member of the Advisory Board for The African American Pulpit, the National Civil Rights Museum, and Bread for the World, as well as the founder of Greater Works, Inc., a nonprofit organization devoted to philanthropy and ministry development; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Dr. Gina Stewart's leadership, Christ Missionary Baptist Church has experienced significant numerical, physical, and financial growth; the church has purchased several additional properties to accommodate its increasing growth and currently offers more than fifty ministries; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Reverend Dr. Stewart be recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart on being honored by the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., as one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry of 2022 and as the keynote speaker of this year's awards ceremony.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.